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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

Rapporteur: Mr. Roman KUZNIAR

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* Documents E/CN.4/1998/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1998/L.11 and addenda.

GE.98-12574 (E)

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Human Rights held its fifty-fourth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 16 March to 24 April 1998. It held ... meetings (E/CN.4/1998/SR.1- ...) 1/ during the session.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Miroslav Somol, Chairman of the Commission at its fifty-third session, who made a statement.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of States members of the Commission, by observers for other States Members of the United Nations, by observers for non-member States and by representatives of the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, national liberation movements and non-governmental organizations. An attendance list is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 16 March 1998, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Mr. Jacob S. Selebi (South Africa)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
	Mr. Luis Gallegos Chiriboga (Ecuador)
	Mr. Ross Hynes (Canada)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Roman Kuzniar (Poland)

D. Agenda

5. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session (E/CN.4/1998/1 and Corr.1 and Add.1), drawn up, in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of the provisional agenda considered by the Commission at its fifty-third session in accordance with paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII).

6. The agenda was adopted without a vote (see annex II).

E. Organization of work

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 17 March 1998, the Commission considered the organization of its work.

8. For the documents issued under agenda item 3, see annex IV to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.

9. Bearing in mind the respective priority of the items and the availability of the relevant documentation, the Commission accepted the recommendation of its officers that the following agenda items should be considered concurrently: items 4 and 7; items 5 and 6; items 9 and 17; items 11, 16 and 18; and items 13 and 14. The Commission further agreed to consider the agenda items in the following order: 1 and 2; 3; 4 and 7; 12; 13 and 14; 5 and 6; 23; 11, 16 and 18; 15; 8; 19; 9 and 17; 24; 10 (b); 10; 20; 22; 21; 25 and 26.

10. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission accepted the recommendation of its officers regarding limitation of the frequency and duration of statements. Members of the Commission were limited to one statement of 10 minutes or two statements of 5 minutes per item or group of items. Observers and non-governmental organizations were limited to one statement of five minutes per item or group of items. Observer States and national liberation movements mentioned in reports submitted to the Commission were limited to one statement of 10 minutes under the item concerned. National commissions (institutions) on human rights under item 9 (b) were limited to one statement of seven minutes. The introductions of draft consensus resolutions by a co-sponsor (if requested) were limited to three minutes. It was also agreed that, with regard to rights of reply, a limitation to two replies, three minutes for the first and two minutes for the second, at the end of the day or at the end of the general debate on any particular item(s), would be observed.

11. It was also recommended that guest speakers should limit their statements to 10-15 minutes. Special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of working groups should limit their initial statements to 10 minutes and their concluding remarks, if necessary, to 5 minutes. The Commission also accepted the recommendation of its officers regarding the use of points of order as follows: the Chair would not admit the use of points of order to express disagreement or provide any arguments in favour or against questions of substance raised by guest speakers.

12. At the same meeting, it was decided that the list of speakers would be opened at the beginning of the session for all participants to be inscribed for all agenda items. There would be three separate lists, for members, observers and NGOs, and they would speak in that order. If the list of speakers was not exhausted during a particular meeting, the remaining speakers would be given the floor at the next meeting, in the same order. The closure of the list of speakers on any particular item(s) would be announced by the Chairman in advance.

13. It was also recommended that draft resolutions and decisions, in order to respect editorial and other requirements, should be submitted at least three working days before the date on which they were scheduled to be considered. The deadline for the submission of draft resolutions would be set by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau and announced sufficiently in advance.

14. It was further decided that the Commission would dispense with the requirement of a quorum except for meetings at which a vote would be taken.

15. Also at its 2nd meeting, on the recommendation of its officers, the Commission decided to invite a number of experts, special rapporteurs, special representatives and chairpersons-rapporteurs of working groups to participate in the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. In addition, it was decided to invite the Chairs of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the head of the Secretary-General's Mission to Guatemala.

16. For the text of the decision, see chapter II, section B, decision 1998/101.

17. It was further decided that additional meetings of the working groups of the Commission under agenda items 19, 20 and 20 (d) would take place parallel to the plenary.

18. At the 7th meeting, on 19 March 1998, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Mary Robinson, introduced her reports (E/CN.4/1998/104 and E/CN.4/1998/122) (see also chapter XXI).

19. In the general debate on agenda item 3, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Bangladesh (3rd), China (3rd), Cuba (5th) (6th), Denmark (5th), Germany (on behalf of the Group of Western

European and other States) (3rd), India (3rd), Indonesia (4th), Pakistan (4th), Republic of Korea (on behalf of the Asian Group)(3rd), Sri Lanka (3rd).

20. The Commission heard a statement by the observer for Egypt (4th).

Situation of human rights in Colombia

21. At the 9th meeting, on 20 March 1998, the Commission heard a statement by Mr. José Fernando Castro, People's Advocate (Ombudsman) of Colombia.

22. At the 25th meeting, on 31 March 1998, the High Commissioner introduced her report on Colombia (E/CN.4/1998/16).

23. At the 39th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the Chairman, on behalf of the Commission, made the following statement concerning the situation of human rights in Colombia:

"The Commission on Human Rights welcomes the fact that the permanent office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bogotá, during its first year of work, has enjoyed the cooperation of State and governmental institutions and has been able to conduct its activities in Colombia without any impediment. It also welcomes the fact that it has available to it an analytical and detailed report on the situation of human rights in Colombia, by the permanent office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bogotá, as well as a document containing the observations of the Government of Colombia.

"The Commission notes the readiness of the Government of Colombia, as expressed in its observations, to give the conclusions and recommendations of the report the most serious consideration in view of their importance and, on this basis, urges the Government of Colombia to advance, with the support of the office, in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report as soon as possible.

"The Commission welcomes the renewal of the agreement between the Government of Colombia and the High Commissioner for Human Rights extending the mandate of the permanent office in Bogotá until 30 April 1999. The Commission considers of greatest importance the work which the office has been undertaking in the promotion of respect for human rights, which may facilitate reconciliation between Colombians and the search for peace. It believes that the office, which is tasked with assisting the Colombian authorities in developing policies and programmes and the promoting and protecting of human rights and

observing violations of human rights in the country, performs a vital role in bringing the human rights situation in Colombia into focus. The Commission expects that the activities of the human rights office in Bogotá will continue to contribute to improving the human rights situation in Colombia, and to promote a climate of trust between the Government and all sectors involved in the conflict, encouraging a process of constructive dialogue involving NGOs and other sectors of civil society, and to prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

"While encouraging the work of the special commission set up by the Government of Colombia for the analysis, follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of international human rights bodies, the Commission considers that progress has been made in the implementation of the recommendations, in particular those of the thematic rapporteurs and working groups, but is still not sufficient to improve the situation of human rights in Colombia.

"In this context, the Commission is deeply concerned at the gravity and scale of the violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law reported to the office in Bogotá.

"The Commission is deeply preoccupied by the persistence and intensification of the internal armed conflict, which entails increasingly serious and continuous abuses and violations of human rights and the application of international humanitarian law mainly by 'paramilitary' groups (also known as 'self-defence' groups or grupos de autodefensa) and guerrillas, but also by certain State agents.

"The Commission urges all parties to make serious efforts to negotiate a peaceful conclusion to the internal armed conflict. In this context, it acknowledges the actions of the Government of Colombia, of many State institutions and numerous organizations of civil society aimed at making progress in the peace process, in particular the creation of the National Peace Council, the 10 million votes for peace cast by the citizens of Colombia heeding the call of the non-governmental movement 'Mandate for Peace', the authorizing of regional governors to promote humanitarian agreements with guerrilla

groups, and the growing openness of Colombia to international participation in the search for negotiated solutions to armed confrontation.

"The Commission acknowledges the package of important policies and measures adopted and set in train by the Government of Colombia in the field of protecting and defending human rights and its willingness to cooperate with the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bogotá and the Commission's special rapporteurs and working groups, and its readiness to continue and reinforce them. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission remains deeply concerned that the situation of endemic violence and the situation of internal armed conflict affecting many parts of the country have resulted in serious consequences for human rights.

"The Commission stresses the background analyses contained in the report of the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bogotá, according to which two political events of the highest importance, as far as their influence on the human rights situation is concerned, occurred in Colombia in 1997, that is the electoral process which will culminate in June 1998 with the election of a new President, and the broad debate in Colombian society about the possibility of a peaceful outcome to the present armed conflict.

"The Commission acknowledges that the Government of Colombia has taken steps for the application of humanitarian standards in the conflict, and welcomes its continued cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the facilitation of its humanitarian activities in the country.

"The Commission is deeply concerned at the growing and harmful contribution of 'paramilitary' groups to the increasingly violent situation in much of Colombia and to the deterioration of the internal armed conflict, and at the involvement of those groups in more than half of the violent crimes attributed to the parties to that conflict. This is reflected notably in the alarming number of massacres of non-combatants and the dramatic increase in numbers of displaced persons. The Commission is similarly concerned at the fact that members of the 'paramilitary' groups sometimes act in conjunction with, or with the acquiescence of members of the armed forces or police.

"The Commission welcomes the reduction in the number of human rights violations attributed to the armed forces and the police, but is concerned that the measures taken by the authorities have not yet succeeded in ensuring that any support for the activities of 'paramilitary' groups is investigated and punished. It notes, however, that there has been an increase in human rights violations committed by 'paramilitaries'. It notes the measures taken by the Government and State investigative authorities to put an end to 'paramilitary' groups, and urges all the authorities to intensify these measures to the maximum until the results are fully satisfactory, including by instituting legal proceedings against any State agents who cooperate with the 'paramilitaries'.

"The Commission expects that the armed forces of Colombia will implement the intention expressed to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bogotá to dismiss from service all those in their ranks who may be implicated in crimes against humanity.

"The Commission condemns terrorist and other violent acts by guerrilla groups which violate international humanitarian law. It calls on the guerrilla groups to respect norms of international humanitarian law and especially condemns killings and all attacks on the civilian population, indiscriminate massacres, kidnapping and threats to kill nationals and foreigners, hostage-taking, the widespread use of anti-personnel landmines, and the recruitment of children.

"Similarly, the Commission condemns electoral sabotage by the guerrilla groups, through the kidnapping and murder of candidates for election to public posts, as well as the murder of various mayors who have not yielded to their pressure. It urges guerrilla groups to release mayors whom they are keeping prisoner and to allow them to exercise, democratically, the mandate granted by the citizens who elected them. At the same time, for humanitarian reasons, it urges the guerrilla groups to release all the soldiers in their possession and all the persons they have kidnapped in contravention of international humanitarian law, including the 30 Colombian and 6 foreign citizens held by the guerrilla group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC).

"The Commission welcomes the recommendations of the Colombian Constitutional Court on 7 November to impose strict controls on the weapons held by the 'special private security and vigilante services' (the so-called Convivir groups). It also welcomes the measures adopted by the Government of Colombia to regulate the establishment and functioning of those bodies, particularly prohibition of their establishment in zones of conflict. Furthermore, it encourages the disbanding of those groups which have failed to comply with the recommendations. It calls upon the Colombian Government to ensure the required resources to closely monitor the activities of all such groups in order to guarantee their effective control and ensure that they remain within the law.

"The Commission recognizes the legislative progress made in Colombia, the most recent examples of which are the ratification of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture and the rules which regulate the recruitment of those under 18 to compulsory military service.

"The Commission calls upon the Government of Colombia to promote the conclusion of the process of reform of the military penal code, in accordance with successive recommendations made by United Nations human rights mechanisms, by excluding from military courts serious human rights violations and in particular crimes against humanity, by separating the functions of the executive and the judiciary, and by introducing criminal indemnification proceedings (la parte civil).

"The Commission calls for the urgent promotion and adoption of the draft law to put an end to forced disappearances and genocide and to increase the punishment for acts of torture, as well as adoption of other more effective measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced disappearances, in accordance with article 3 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and in accordance with recommendations made by United Nations human rights mechanisms.

"The Commission recognizes the fact that a draft law has been presented to Congress to advance the abolition of the regional justice system.

"The Commission urges early agreement in the Colombian Congress upon and effective implementation of the draft laws mentioned in the three preceding paragraphs.

"The Commission remains concerned at the unacceptable level of impunity, in particular concerning abuses by State agents that continue to fall under the jurisdiction of military courts. It calls upon the Government of Colombia to take steps to address this problem as a matter of urgency. It welcomes the important advances made in a number of cases of gross human rights violations by the Human Rights Unit in the Office of the Procurator General which is investigating and indicting State agents, guerrillas, and members of 'paramilitary' groups responsible for violations of human rights or humanitarian law.

"The Commission urges the Government of Colombia to strengthen and consolidate its support, through all institutions of the State, of all those who promote the defence of human rights. It is deeply concerned at the apparent increased threat to many human rights defenders, as demonstrated, inter alia, by the killing of the two researchers of the Centre for Research and Popular Education in May 1997, and the murder of the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission in Antioquia in February. It is also deeply concerned that some members of the State intelligence organizations consider human rights defenders to be linked to guerrilla groups, and sometimes seek to have them investigated by the judicial authorities through the use of witnesses linked to the intelligence organizations. It calls upon the Colombian Government to give special importance to the safety of human rights workers. It notes the adoption in July 1997 of the Presidential Directive on recognition of the work of human rights advocates, and other measures taken by the Government to improve this situation and to protect human rights defender organizations.

"The Commission acknowledges the efforts made by the Government of Colombia to address the problems of the internal displacement of large numbers of Colombian citizens, which is largely symptomatic of the internal conflict. However, it remains deeply concerned about the increasing numbers of internally displaced persons in Colombia which calls for firm action by the Colombian authorities, perhaps in coordination with international bodies. It takes note with satisfaction

of all the measures taken by the Government of Colombia to provide solutions to this problematic situation and expects those measures to become established and implemented effectively. In this context, it welcomes the understanding reached recently between the Government of Colombia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on establishing a liaison office in Bogotá. It urges the Government of Colombia to continue to seek effective means to prevent such displacements, to take all necessary measures to protect the life and physical integrity of internally displaced persons, and to ensure security for organizations supporting them.

"The Commission requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to present to it during its next session a detailed report containing an analysis by her Office of the situation of human rights in Colombia, in accordance with the provisions of the agreement between the Government of Colombia and the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the operation of the permanent office in Bogotá."

24. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Colombia (25th)

....

25. The Commission also heard a statement by the following non-governmental organizations: American Association of Jurists (25th), Andean Commission of Jurists (25th), Canadian Council of Churches (25th), Catholic Institute for International Relations (25th), France-Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand (10th), Franciscans International (10th), International Commission of Jurists (25th), International Federation of Human Rights (25th), International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (25th), Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees (joint statement with and the World Organization against Torture) (39th), Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (9th), Lutheran World Federation (joint statement with World Alliance of Reformed Churches, World Council of Churches) (25th), OXFAM (United Kingdom and Ireland) (9th), Pax Christi International (25th), Pax Romana (25th), Women's International Democratic Federation (25th).

Outbreak of violence in Kosovo

26. At the 14th meeting, on 24 March 1998, the Chairman, on behalf of the Commission, made the following statement concerning the outbreak of violence in Kosovo:

"The Commission on Human Rights is deeply concerned at the recent outbreak of violence in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). It deplores the death of a large number of civilians, including women, children and the elderly. It condemns the excessive and brutal use of force by the Serbian police.

"The Commission once again calls on the authorities in Belgrade to cease violations of human rights and to take urgent steps to protect and promote internationally accepted standards of human rights in Kosovo. Government authorities have a clear duty to protect the rights of all citizens and to ensure that public security forces act with restraint and in full respect of internationally agreed norms and standards.

"The Commission stresses that it also condemns terrorism in all its forms and from any quarter, and denounces all acts of violence, including by Kosovo Albanian groups. It calls on the leaders of the Kosovo Albanian community to make clear their total rejection of terrorism.

"The Commission urges the FRY Government and the leadership of the Kosovo Albanian community to start a genuine dialogue with the aim of finding a peaceful solution, taking into account the rights of the Kosovo Albanians as well as all others who live in Kosovo and consistent with respect for the territorial integrity of the FRY.

"The Commission supports the statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights of 12 March and calls on the authorities in Belgrade to cooperate fully with her requests, in particular to facilitate the deployment of additional human rights officers in Kosovo, and to agree to the establishment of an office of the High Commissioner in Pristina.

"The Commission requests the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia to make an early visit to the region and to report back to the Commission, and calls on the authorities in Belgrade to cooperate fully with him.

"The Commission welcomes the initiative of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in seeking to visit Kosovo and report to its current session. The Commission calls upon the authorities in Belgrade to cooperate fully with him. The Commission also calls upon the authorities in Belgrade to permit independent investigation, including by relevant international bodies, into

allegations of extrajudicial killings and, if these allegations are borne out, to prosecute and punish those responsible. There must be no impunity for such acts."

Organization of the work of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

27. At the 58th meeting, on 22 April 1998, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision concerning the organization of the work of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission (dates of the session). The draft decision was adopted without a vote. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 1998/110.

28. At the same meeting, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision concerning the organization of the work of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission (additional meetings). The draft decision was adopted without a vote. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 1998/111.

29. Statements were made by the representatives of Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Switzerland), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and Norway) and the United States of America, and the observer for Algeria.

F. Meetings, resolutions and documentation

30. As indicated in paragraph 1 above, the Commission held ... fully serviced meetings, including .... additional meetings, authorized by Economic and Social Council decision 1996/295 of 24 July 1996.

31. The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session are contained in chapter II of the present report. Draft resolutions and decisions for action by the Economic and Social Council are set out in chapter I. For a list of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.

32. Annex III contains a statement regarding the administrative and programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

33. Annex IV contains a list of documents issued for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

G. Visits

34. During its fifty-fourth session, the Commission heard statements 1/ by the following guest speakers:

(a) At the 1st meeting, on 16 March 1998: Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mr. Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic;

(b) At the 2nd meeting, on 17 March 1998: Mr. Kamal Kharazi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Mr. Youri V. Ushakov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation; Ms. Aloysea Inyumba, Minister of Family, Gender and Social Affairs of Rwanda; Mr. Tony Lloyd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia); Mr. Masahiko Koumura, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Japan; Ms. Tarja Halonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, in connection with whose statement a statement in exercise of the equivalent of the right of reply was made by the Observer for Myanmar (10th); Ms. Patrizia Toia, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy; Mr. Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister of France; Mr. Abel Matutes, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain; Ms. Emma Bonino, Member of the European Commission (European Union); Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Austria;

(c) At the 3rd meeting, on 17 March 1998: Ms. Hilde Frafjord-Johnson, Minister for Development and Human Rights of Norway; Mr. Klaus Kinkel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany; Mr. Boris Frlec, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia; Ms. Ljerka Mintas-Hodak, Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia; Mr. Eduardo Stein Barillas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; Mr. José Gregori, National Secretary for Human Rights of Brazil; Mr. Gorgi Spasov, Minister of Justice of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in connection with whose statement a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the Observer for Greece (3rd), followed by a statement in exercise of the equivalent of the right of reply by the Observer for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (3rd); Mr. Kamal Thapa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal;

(d) At the 5th meeting, on 18 March 1998: Mr. Camilo Reyes Rodriguez, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Mr. Maciej Kozlowski, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr. Ahmed Attaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria; Mr. Rokas Bernotas, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania; Ms. Lydie Err, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg; Mr. Moustapha Niasse, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal; Mr. Augustin Kontchou Kouomegni, Minister of State in charge of External Relations of Cameroon, in connection with whose statement a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the Observer for Nigeria (6th), followed by a statement in exercise of the equivalent of the right of reply by the Observer for Cameroon (6th); Mr. Erik Derycke, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium; Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, in connection with whose statement statements in exercise of the right of reply or its equivalent were made by the representative of India (6th) and by the Observer for Afghanistan (6th), followed by a statement in exercise of the equivalent of the right of reply by the representative of Pakistan (6th);

(e) At the 6th Meeting, on 18 March 1998: Mr. Hikmet Sami Turk, State Minister in charge of Human Rights of Turkey; Mr. Rodolphe Adada, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Congo;

(f) At the 7th meeting, on 19 March 1998: Ms. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Ms. Frances Rodrigues, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique; Mr. Jorge Madrazo, Attorney General of Mexico; Mr. Marcel Eloi Rahandi Chambrier, Minister for Justice of Gabon; Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

(g) At the 8th meeting, on 19 March 1998: Mr. Hans van Mierlo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; Ms. Nina Mazai, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus; Mr. Valdis Birkavs, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia;

(h) At the 9th meeting, on 20 March 1998: Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See; Ms. Lena Hjelm-Wallén, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; His Highness Torki Ben Mohammed Ben Saoud Al-Kabeer, Head of International Organizations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

Mr. Abdullah Ahmad Ghanem, Minister of Legal Affairs of Yemen; Mr. Valentine W.C. Kayope, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia;

(i) At the 10th meeting, on 20 March 1998: Mr. Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba;

(j) At the 11th meeting, on 23 March 1998: Mr. Dali Jazy, Minister of Higher Education of Tunisia;

(k) At the 12th meeting, on 23 March 1998: Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Omar, Minister of Justice of South Africa;

(l) At the 13th meeting, on 24 March 1998: Mr. Pierre-Henri Imbert, Director of Human Rights of the Council of Europe;

(m) At the 15th meeting, on 25 March 1998: Mr. Omar El Muntasser, Secretary-General of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaisons of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Mr. Jaime Gama, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, in connection with whose statement statements in exercise of the right of reply or its equivalent were made by the representative of Indonesia (16th)(18th), followed by a statement in exercise of the equivalent of the right of reply by the Observer of Portugal (18th); Mr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in connection with whose statement a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of India (16th);

(n) At the 16th meeting, on 25 March 1998: Mr. Bill Richardson, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, in connection with whose statement statements in exercise of the right of reply or its equivalent were made by the representative of Cuba (16th) and by the Observer for Iraq (16th);

(o) At the 17th meeting, on 26 March 1998: Mr. Ali Mohammed Othman Yassin, Minister of Justice of the Sudan; Mr. Friis Arne Petersen, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Denmark;

(p) At the 18th meeting, on 26 March 1998: Mr. Federico Mayor, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Mr. Jonathan Motzfeldt, Premier of Greenland, Denmark; Mr. Asdrubal Aguiar, Minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency of Venezuela and President of the National Commission on Human Rights of Venezuela;

(q) At the 19th meeting, on 27 March 1998: Ms. Carmen Moreno, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico;

(r) At the 22nd meeting, on 30 March 1998: Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada; Ms. Andrea Willi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein;

(s) At the 23rd meeting, on 30 March 1998: Mr. Fernando Naranjo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica;

(t) At the 28th meeting, on 2 April 1998: Mr. Bamouni Somolou Stanislas Baba, Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Togo;

(u) At the 30th meeting, on 3 April 1998, Mr. Mariano Fernández A., Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile;

(v) At the 32nd meeting, on 6 April 1998, Mr. Gabriel Aguilera Peralta, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala;

(w) At the 42nd meeting, on 14 April 1998, Mr. Mweze Nkongolo, Minister of Justice of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(x) At the 45th meeting, on 15 April 1998, Mr. Paskal Milo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania; Mr. Tom Ikimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria;

(y) At the 49th meeting, on 16 April 1998, Mr. Georges Chikoty, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Angola;

(z) At the 54th meeting, on 20 April 1998, Mr. Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Equatorial Guinea;

(...) A statement in exercise of the right of reply or its equivalent was made by the representative of China (20th).

H. Other matters

35. At its 6th meeting, on 18 March 1998, the Commission observed a minute of silence in memory of the five members of the Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) who had lost their lives in a helicopter accident on 17 March 1998.

36. At its 54th meeting, on 20 April 1998, the Commission observed a minute of silence in memory of Mr. José Eduardo Umaña Mendoza, a Colombian

human rights defender, who was assassinated on 18 April 1998. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Colombia and the World Organization against Torture (joint statement with the International Service for Human Rights).

---- MORE TO COME ----